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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

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SUBJECT Border Guard Troop Training

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The Training Program

1. [redacted] the overall border guard training program. [redacted] was set up in Moscow at the Chief Border Guard Directorate (GUPV-Glavnoye Upravleniye Pogranichnykh Voysk) and distributed through the districts to the lower units. The districts, as lower unit headquarters, expanded and explained the program in necessary detail to the lower units. [redacted] there were very few changes in the program from year to year. In general, the program was divided into political training and border guard service training.

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The Training Year

2. Normally, the training year began in November with the winter training season. In late March, April, or even May the spring-summer training season began and continued to September. From September to November there was a break during which there was no formal, uniform training. During this period, units reviewed and repeated subjects in which they had been weak during the previous training year. After each training season there was an inspection and examination period during which higher unit teams came to determine how well the various units had assimilated training.

Unit Training

3. In addition to daily routine border guard duties, EM of the border guard had a three-hour training period five days a week; there was no training period on Saturday which was devoted to inspection and administrative duties.

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4. The monthly training schedule for border guard enlisted personnel totalled 60-65 hours of which 16-18 hours were devoted to political indoctrination. The remaining hours were about evenly divided between general combat and tactical training, and training pertinent to border guard duties.
5. In the 22-24 hours of border guard training (pogranichnaya podgotovka) given each month, the following phases of activity were covered: border sentry duties, border guard unit CQ duties, the manning and operation of screens (zaslony), observation posts, secret observation posts (sekrety), patrols, handling of border crossers, operation of signal devices and signals in use at frontier posts and headquarters.

Officer Training

6. Border guard officers had a formal training schedule which lasted three days a month, eight hours per day. The three periods were called officer training periods (ofitsterskaya ucheba). One-third of the training time was devoted to the study of Marxist-Leninist principles and the remainder was about equally divided between tactical training and border guard training.
7. Tactical training included the solution of problems, various tasks and studies which were sometimes assigned individually and sometimes assigned jointly. This also included the preparation of "spot" writs called "letuchki" on various subjects.
8. Officers' border guard training [redacted] covered instruction on organization, administration, and operation at zastava and komendatura levels, the operation of a normal border guard security routine (i.e. one not under alert conditions) and the operation of a reinforced border guard routine (i.e. under various alert conditions). 25X1
9. Border guard officers enrolled in any type of military or civilian correspondence course (zaachnyy kurs) were excused from participation in the regular officers' training program.

Marksmanship Training

10. [redacted] marksmanship training given to border guard troops 25X1
[redacted] marksmanship training was taken very seriously in the border guard and [redacted] the average border guard trooper was taught to shoot well. Night firing was especially stressed in the border guard. [redacted] the border guard personnel did not use any particular optical sight or night-firing device, but rather were taught to fire by rocket light. 25X1
[redacted] 25X1

Physical Training

11. [redacted] the emphasis which the border guard placed on physical training [redacted] the stress placed on physical training was greater in the border guard than in the Soviet Army. At zastava level it was carried out under the CO's direction. Several hours were devoted to it weekly and it fell under the general heading of "combat training". In addition, considerable "free time" on Sundays and holidays was devoted to physical training. 25X1

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12. Komendaturas had no physical training instructors. Physical training at detachment and district levels was supervised by physical training leaders (fizruki) of the fifth (combat training) section who were officers. (The district "fizruk" was often a major.)

Camouflage Training

13. [] in the border guard there were no installations to be camouflaged and [] use of cover was taught rather than camouflage. For example, troops were taught to take advantage of darkness by entering and leaving ambush (sekrety) at night. 25X1

Recruit Training

14. New recruits were brought to the border guard district headquarters of the districts to which they were assigned and then distributed among the various training centers (uchebnyye punkty) which were under control and general supervision of the border guard district. At times, these centers were under the immediate control of a district's sergeant's school but they were usually under the immediate control of the detachments (otryady).
15. The recruits' civilian clothes were taken away, they were issued uniforms, and received three or four months of basic training at the centers. There was a training zastava where border conditions were simulated and recruits were taught the school of the border guard trooper. Exercises were both theoretical and practical. Training encompassed marksmanship, guard duty, political and physical training. On completion of basic training the recruits were assigned to border guard line units.

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